

SECRET

2 February 1961

MEMORANDUM: Chief/CI/Liaison

SUBJECT: Otto Albrecht Alfred von BOLSCHWING

1. It has been brought to our attention that subject has applied to ICA for employment and is supposedly being processed for a position in India. Therefore, it has been suggested that your office be apprised of certain phases of his background; the facts cited below indicate that subject's past activities could result in political embarrassment to ICA and to the U.S. Government.

2. Examination of captured German documents has brought to light voluminous information about Adolf EICHMANN, his office, his subordinates, and his agents. It has not been possible to complete a thorough analysis and prepare a detailed report because of the very large number of documents involved.

3. According to the captured records, subject became a member of the Nazi party on 1 April 1932. His party membership number was 984212. From 1937 (or earlier) until about 1939, he appears to have been a principal agent of the Department II, Section 112 of the RSHA (the German Security Service Headquarters). At that time, EICHMANN (and several other persons who have been tried as war criminals) was a member of this section. The examination conducted thus far has not made it possible to ascertain whether EICHMANN was subject's case officer in the early years of their service with the RSHA. It does, however, appear that by 1938 EICHMANN directed at least one or two specific phases of subject's work.

4. The chief of Department II, Dr. Franz Alfred SIX, appears to have exercised a considerable degree of supervision of Section 112. The captured records contain evidence that, at least on one occasion, SIX, EICHMANN, and subject conferred in detail about certain anti-Jewish activities of Section 112 and gave subject specific guidance. Other papers indicate that Dr. SIX and EICHMANN were well acquainted with subject and with his work. In 1960, Dr. SIX was reported as residing in a small town in southern Germany. In 1956, he was part owner of a publishing firm in West Germany.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐  
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒  
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

Declassified and Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 2001, 2005

SECRET

2175

~~SECRET~~

-2-

5. In 1937 or 1938, subject appears to have been directly involved in foreign currency manipulations. Specifically, at that time, the Nazis were exerting pressure upon persons of the Jewish extraction in order to get them to leave Germany. As a result, many Jews sold their property in preparation for emigration. The Nazi laws stipulated, however, that only a limited amount of German currency could be taken out of Germany by Jewish emigrants and that additional sums of money could be taken out only if the sums were officially converted to currencies of other countries. As these transactions could be made only at official installations, the Nazis exchanged the funds at a rate inflated in their favor and used the proceeds for financing their intelligence (i.e. RSHA) activities. Subject was directly involved in these manipulations, having gained his experience in fiscal matters while working for "Overseas Traders, Ltd." in Jerusalem, Beirut, and Cairo from 1933 to 1936. In 1936 he was expelled from those areas by the British authorities.

6. He then continued these financial activities for the RSHA in Berlin and later in Vienna.

7. Probably in April 1940 he became a staff member of the RSHA and held the rank of SS 2nd Lt. He was promoted to the rank of SS 1st Lt. in July 1940 and to captain in January 1941. In May 1940 he was working for the RSHA in Bucharest, and was closely associated with von KILLINGER, the German Envoy to Rumania. Von KILLINGER's activities have been linked with EICHMAN's attempts to exterminate the Jews and he has been considered a war criminal. It has not, however, been possible to establish whether the accusations are founded and whether von KILLINGER has been brought before a war crimes tribunal.

8. The above information about subject may be passed to ICA. However, the information cited below should not be made available to other agencies without the approval of pertinent CIA offices.

a. Shortly after WW II, subject was employed by the West German Intelligence Service. While with this service, he also performed various assignments for this Agency and indicated loyalty toward the U.S. and a desire to switch employers.

b. Subject was employed by this Agency as a contract agent from about 1950 to 1954. In the course of his association with us, he never provided full and correct details of his RSHA employment and failed to advise us that he had been involved with several war

~~SECRET~~

218

SECRET

-3-

criminals. He acknowledged to us that he had been a member of the Nazi Party, but claimed that he was compelled to join. He said further, that he had been able to alter the official records to show that he had joined the party at an earlier, more advantageous date. He entered the U.S. without Agency sponsorship. We did, however, indicate to the Immigration and Naturalization Service that we were aware of his membership in the Nazi party, but that we felt it was relatively inconsequential, particularly in view of subject's excellent service in our behalf. It is presumed that this certification is a matter of record with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

c. Several months after the Israeli Government's announcement of EICHMANN's seizure, the German authorities reinstituted active investigation of EICHMANN and of several other persons accused or suspected of war crimes. In the course of the investigation, three representatives of the West German Ministry of Justice were sent to Washington, D.C., on detail and spent more than a month examining captured records. The records containing the desired evidence--among them many which we have examined and which we have used as a basis for the above statements--were microfilmed and sent to Germany for use in the investigation and presumably for use as evidence in future war crime trials conducted in Germany.

d. Finally, it has also been brought to our attention that the Israeli Government has obtained certified reproductions of many of these captured records. It is presumed that the copies are to be used as evidence in the forthcoming EICHMANN trial.

9. It is our assumption that subject may be named as EICHMANN's collaborator and fellow conspirator and that the resulting publicity may prove embarrassing to the U.S. if subject becomes associated with ICA or its activities. It is suggested that the ICA be advised of the facts contained in the captured records so that they can weigh the risks involved. Similarly, it is suggested that you consider informing the FBI concurrently as there may be in this case a violation of U.S. statutes.

C/CI/R&A

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - addressee

1 - [ ]

1 - Office of Security/SRS

1 - CI/OPS/EE

1 - EE/G

SECRET

213